



STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT

Brater Press Release

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SEN. BRATER LAUDS GOVERNOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF \$54M IN 21ST CENTURY JOBS FUND AWARDS

University, Tech and Science Companies Project 2,000+ New Jobs in Washtenaw

LANSING – Sen. Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) praised yesterday's announcement by Governor Granholm that the University of Michigan and twenty-two other Washtenaw County businesses have been awarded more than \$54 million for advanced automotive, homeland security, life science and alternative energy projects that will boost the economy and create jobs. The awards were part of the first round of grants from the 21st Century Jobs Fund that will invest more than \$100 million in 61 projects over ten years for high-tech research and commercialization of products, processes, and services. Recipients are projecting that their efforts will result in more than 3,000 new jobs, including 2,000 in Washtenaw County.

"This seed money is crucial to our efforts to diversify and grow Michigan's economy," Sen. Brater said. "This investment in the fields of science and technology will change the face of our state, and I'm proud to see the Ann Arbor area leading the way."

Funding is provided through a competitive proposal process. Awardees were determined by independent peer review experts in competitive-edge technology sectors. More than 500 proposals were submitted and were narrowed to 85 highly recommended organizations. Funding was available for 61 finalists.

The \$2 billion 21st Century Job Fund is administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). It is intended to create a healthy and entrepreneurial private sector and promote collaborative partnerships in four areas of competitive-edge technologies: Life sciences; alternative energy; advanced automotive, manufacturing and materials; and homeland security and defense. It is the only such fund of its scope in the nation.

The program provides funding to Michigan institutions of higher education, Michigan non-profit research institutions and corporations, and for profit companies and entrepreneurs seeking to grow and create new competitive-edge Michigan companies.

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State Senator Brater represents Senate District 18 which includes the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Chelsea, the Villages of Barton Hills and Dexter, and the following townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee.